



EXHIBIT 1
DATE 02/08/07
HB 131

February 8, 2006

TO: Chairman Himmelberger and Members of the Senate State Administration
Committee

From: Boyce Fowler, Volunteer Advocate, AARP Montana

RE: Support of HB 131, Revise PERS

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee my name is Boyce Fowler, volunteer advocate for AARP Montana. AARP is a non-profit, non-partisan membership organization with 153,000 members in the state.

AARP was founded in 1958 by retired educator Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus. She dedicated her retirement to advocating for the health and financial security of her retired teacher colleagues. Our organization now has 38 million members, over half who are not retired. We strongly advocate for the health and financial security for, as our recent advertising campaign says, "everyone who has a birthday."

We strongly support HB 131 because it takes a vital step to ensure the solvency of retirement systems. However, we do not support the decrease in the GABA from 3% to 1.5%. We know that over the last ten years the cost of living has increased 3% and do not feel it is wise to risk the financial stability of future retirees. We also know the increase cost of healthcare and home maintenance is rising and do not want to intentionally set up future retirees with impending debt.

With that section amended to maintain a 3% GABA, AARP encourages your support of this bill.